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INFORMATION MEMO

COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT Public Attitude Toward Communism

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1. Hungarians are waiting to see whether the Western Powers, especially the US, will fight a preventive war against the USSR by 1949 or 1950. If such a war is fought, the Hungarians will cast the Communists and establish a democracy. If no war is fought by 1950, the Hungarians will turn away from the Western Powers and accommodate themselves to life within the orbit of Russian influence.
2. Communists in Hungary, unlike those in other European countries, are trying to raise instead of lower the standard of living. Many Hungarians are becoming richer, and night clubs are full of well dressed people who have climbed on the Communist bandwagon.
3. There is no anti-Communist underground in Hungary. Because they are realistic, and because feudalism is too deeply rooted in their national psychology, Hungarians are biding their time, bowing and scraping before the Communists, and meanwhile laughing behind the Communists' backs.

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